

What priorities for Research collaborations in European tropical overseas?

Synthetic description of NetBiome-CSA's 4 main challenges for conciliating conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical and subtropical ORs and OCTs of Europe.

Challenge 1¹- Integrated Biodiversity conservation through spatial planning

In order to promote integrated approaches for spatial planning, this challenge deals with two proprietary topics:

- Technical, democratic and financial tools that could ease the collective definition of plans for area's allocation and management. Such strategies need to integrate the different issues and sectorial priorities as well as the recognition and enhancement of ecosystem services.
- Understanding and mapping of the various types of ecosystem services (notably climate change mitigation), as well as the large dissemination of those concepts and principles in order to feed the collective decision making processes.

Challenge 2² - Sustainable agriculture and forestry practices

This challenge deals with the enhancement of the large diversity and richness of agricultural practices existing in the various European overseas entities, in order to advice green growth strategies. It is characterized by the search of equilibrium between yields maximization and use of the properties and assets of biodiversity. In this context, this challenge focuses on two major topics:

- The research efforts needed in agro-ecology, notably on ecology and cultural practices that underlined such approaches.
- The recognition of local scales specificity, both for adapting European policies to local context and for capitalizing on empirical knowledge and practices for economic and social sustainability and equity.

Challenge 3³ - Sustainable management and effective conservation of biodiversity

The challenge addresses ways to achieve sustainable management and effective conservation of biodiversity. Main topic to be addressed deals with Biodiversity Governance. EU guidelines and indicators for biodiversity management and monitoring are available for continental Europe, but not necessarily fit the conditions of Europe's OCTs and ORs.

Within this challenge key EU guidelines and indicators for biodiversity will be revisited. This will facilitate (i) matching the specific requirements for OCTs and ORs, and (ii) developing guidelines and regulations that support (international and interregional) consistent and prolonged strategies for monitoring programmes on which sustainable exploitation schemes can be based.

Challenge 4⁴ - Knowledge base decision making in marine and coastal issues

This challenge brings particular attention to the marine component of European overseas, whose large size and important role in European sectorial strategies is not matched in investment and attention at the political level. This has serious consequences, such as a reduced capacity to control and mitigate anthropic impacts (e.g. overfishing and pollution) and to effectively manage MPAs. Two main topics are proposed to be addressed:

- How to mobilize a knowledge base wide enough to enable the identification of ecological processes, and to use this knowledge to build the capacity to manage and conserve biodiversity
- Adaptations in regulatory and taxation frameworks in order to recognize and preserve the marine natural capital of European overseas which will support an important part of the new blue economy.

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